

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1-11, 15-16, 19-21, and 23-25 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by Kuebert, et al. (U.S. 2002/0165729) in view of Lynt, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,038) and further in view of Srinivasan (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,862).

Kuebert, et al. discloses the following in his abstract:

"The principles of the present invention provide the ability to flexibly change the delivery point and time for a mail item, while the item is en route. The recipient, sender, or mailer may flexibly change the delivery point of the item alone or in combination with each other. While an item is en route between the sending point and the delivery point, a notification is sent to indicate that the item is in transit. In response, the delivery of the item may be changed. For example, the destination specified by the sender (e.g., the delivery address written on the item) may be changed or a delivery time may be specified. The item is then delivered to the new delivery point and/or at the specified delivery time."

Lynt discloses the following in lines 15-26 of column 6:

"Another application of the device could be as a hand-held text to Braille reader. The imaging portion would be scanned over a printed document and the processing means would cause Braille representations of the scanned text to be produced on the tactile display for sensing by the user.

If the imaging means is replaced or augmented with a listening device, i.e., a microphone, and the processing means includes speech analysis operations, the tactile display could be caused to output Braille characters, or another representation, corresponding to detected speech. The device could be adapted to connect to a telephone so that tactile representations of speech received through the telephone are produced."

When Lynt images something, he directly converts that image to Braille to be produced on the tactile display for sensing by the user.

Srinivasan discloses the following in lines 36-61 of column 2:

"To do so, the present invention provides a sender with a single subscriber number to call in order to send or leave a message. Both the sender and a subscriber may select their preferred medium of communication. If the two are different, the present invention provides the necessary conversion. In addition, the present invention can notify a subscriber when a message has been received via the subscriber's preferred "message waiting" notification mechanism. Finally, messages can be stored, routed, or communicated to other subscribers. IN such a fashion, the present invention provides for sending and receiving messages anywhere, at any time, in any form.

More particularly, the present invention provides a method and system whereby a subscriber may automatically and in a predetermined fashion direct the routing of messages having any of a number of different media formats including, but not limited to, facsimile, pages, voice mail, electronic mail (e-mail), video mail, and other types of media. Messages may be routed to a variety of different types of destinations also including, but not limited to, facsimile machines, pager systems, voice mail systems, e-mail systems, video mail systems, and others. Specific destinations are preselected before receipt of the messages depending upon various subscriber designated parameters such as the type of message, date, and time of day."

Srinivasan discloses the routing of messages from facsimile machines, pager systems, voice mail, and e-mail. Srinivasan's invention is not applicable to letters and/or packages.

Kuebert, Lynt or Srinivasan, taken separately or together, does not disclose or anticipate the invention claimed by Applicant in claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon. The cited patents do not disclose or anticipate the step of charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to

the carrier. Mail is defined on line 7 of page 3 of Applicant's specification to be letters and/or packages. In the delivery of mail, a sender pays the carrier for delivering mail to a recipient. Recipients are not charged for the delivery of mail (letters and/or packages) that has sufficient postage. The recipient is charged only for mail that has insufficient postage. In the method claimed by Applicant, the recipient is charged for delivery mail (letters and/or packages) by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient. The cited patents also do not disclose or anticipate the step of utilizing the telephone number of the recipient and the translated image alphanumerics to inform the recipient of the expected delivery of the deposited mail via a tactile communication device. They do not convert an address field into a telephone number, and then use the translated image information and the tactile converter to notify the recipient of the deposited mail.

Claim 12 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of Sherwood, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,584).

Sherwood discloses the following in column 1, lines 10-24:

"In most telephone systems with voice mail capability, when a voice mail message is left, the phone system attempts to notify the user. This is frequently done by lighting a light on the user's phone, by sounding a tone when the user picks up the phone or by sending a notification by a radio pager. In the case of radio paging, if the message is not retrieved, then the message is sent by radio pager again. This will happen a fixed number of times such as 5 times. If the message is not retrieved, no other action is taken, and the caller does not receive a response to their message. In some lesser phone voice mail systems, such as the voice mail offered by GTE, radio paging of the arrival of voice mail messages is available in business service for an extra fee, but there is no notification by a light on the phone or by a tone on the phone when the phone is picked up."

Sherwood discloses a system in which the arrival of voice mail messages is available in business services for an extra fee. Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., Srinivasan and Sherwood do not disclose or anticipate a method in which a recipient is charged for receiving notification of the availability of deposited mail (letters and/or packages).

Claim 17 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of McKeen, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,037,956). McKeen discloses the following in lines 28-35 of column 2:

"A postal customer can pay a set fee for the time period he wishes to have the verified mail contents stored and verified documents whose storage time has expired can be destroyed. In one embodiment, the postal customer can have the option of being notified prior to the date when his verified documents are scheduled to be destroyed so that he may extend the storage time if he wishes."

McKeen discloses a system in which the sender pays a set fee for the time period he wishes to have the contents of verified mail stored. The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate a method in which the recipient notifies the carrier to destroy the mail (letter and/or packages).

Claim 18 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of Gordon, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,323).

Gordon discloses the following in lines 59-66 of column 15:

"Rather than return the postcards immediately to the vendor **700**, the postal authority **702** during stage **5** stores the postcard in a central location. During stage **6** the postcard, as well as all postcards for the vendor **700** are returned to the vendor **700**. Alternatively, the postcards are discarded or recycled and the postal

authority **700** provides images of the postcards via email or by some other compact media such as microfilm or reduced copies copied in sets on single sheets of paper."

Gordon's post cards may be discarded or recycled before they are returned to the vendor. The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate the recipient notifying the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail (letter and/or packages).

Claim 22 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuebert, et al., Lynt, et al., and Srinivasan in view of Busch, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,390,921).

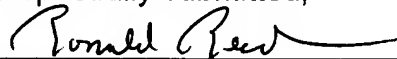
Busch discloses the following in lines 38-44 of column 4:

"The system will also notify via email at least five other subsets of winners (for example(if they may have winning pieces when said players are matched with others in the event the first winners fail to produce said winning pieces. It will be appreciated that the notification may be achieved by numerous alternative methods, such as Web-TV, satellite or wireless communication, telephone, regular mail delivery, etc."

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate notifying a recipient of mail via television of the availability of the deposited mail (letter and/or package).

In view of the above, claims 1-12 and 15-27 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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